

Message Text

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60
ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2605

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR GR CY
SUBJ: GREEK POLITICAL OPPOSITION REACTION TO CLERIDES
ALLEGED STATEMENT RE BIZONAL SETTLEMENT

1. OPPOSITION LEADERS GEORGE MAVROS (CU/NF) AND ANDREAS PAPANDREOU (PASOK) MADE BRIEF RETORTS ON APRIL 2 TO CLERIDES' ALLEGED STATEMENT THAT IT IS LESS IMPORTANT WHETHER A CYPRUS SOLUTION IS MULTIREGIONAL OR BIZONAL THAN WHAT THE GUARANTEES ARE. MAVROS SAID THAT BOTH PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT OPPOSED A BIZONAL SOLUTION AND ADDED THAT HE CONSIDERED IT UNLIKELY THAT CLERIDES WOULD PUBLICLY CONCEDE A POINT STILL TO BE NEGOTIATED, PARTICULARLY SINCE HIS ALLEGED REMARKS WERE CONTRARY TO THE POSITION OF THE CYPRIOT AND GREEK GOVERNMENTS. PAPANDREOU EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER ALLEGED CLERIDES STATEMENT WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO OFFERING TO TURKEY THE PARTITION OF CYPRUS. PAPANDREOU ADDED, "WE ARE WAITING THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF BOTH MAKARIOS AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER. . ."

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2. ATHENS NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO-TV COVERED WIDELY THE

MAVROS AND PAPANDREOU REACTIONS. REPORTAGE WAS USUALLY LINKED WITH OTHER CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING SPECULATION THAT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WILL RESUME IN VIENNA ON APRIL 25. WHILE MAVROS AND PAPANDREOU HAVE GENERALLY REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING CARAMANLIS (OR CLERIDES, FOR THAT MATTER) ON THEIR HANDLING OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, APRIL 2 STATEMENTS REVEAL UNDERLYING INFLEXIBILITY OF OPPOSITION VIEWS AND WERE DOUBTLESS DESIGNED TO PREPARE GROUND FOR FUTURE ATTACKS ON CARAMANLIS SHOULD HE EVENTUALLY AGREE TO BI-ZONAL SETTLEMENT. GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS REMAINED SILENT AS YET. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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